

which exits at a distal cavity (11c) located at the distal tip (11b) of the screw (shown at greater magnification in Fig. 4c).

RESPONSE

The PTO objected to the disclosure on the ground that the specification did not mention Fig. 4a. The Applicant notes that the disclosure mentions at page 5, line 4 that "Figure 4 illustrates screw-shaped elongated members (11)," and that a person of ordinary skill would readily understand that Fig. 4a depicts an embodiment of a screw-shaped elongated element. Nonetheless, the Applicant hereby amends page 19, lines 5-8 of the disclosure to recite that "Fig. 4a depicts a simple embodiment." The text now reads:

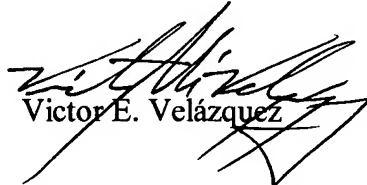
Figure 4 illustrates screw-shaped elongated members (11).
Fig. 4a depicts a simple embodiment. The embodiment in
Fig. 4b contains in a central axial channel an optical fiber
for conducting an image located in the center of the screw,
which exits at a distal cavity (11c) located at the distal tip
(11b) of the screw (shown at greater magnification in Fig.
4c).

The amendments merely make explicit what was clearly disclosed in Figure 4a and in the specification before amendment, and do not introduce new matter into the disclosure.

SUMMARY

For the preceding reasons, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the PTO's objections have been accommodated, and he requests the prompt issuance of the patent. If the Examiner has any questions, he may contact the Applicant at (787) 850-4226.

Sincerely,


Victor E. Velázquez